

istry what it thinks of the formulas furnished by manufacturers. If you do not care to go to the trouble of writing to the Council, just take the back numbers of the *Journal A. M. A.*, and read what it has published regarding the frauds as to formulas or methods of bamboozling the profession which have been practiced by the very firms which the physicians of New York are now helping to promote for money. Surely, one must suppose, the officers of the great Medical Society of the State of New York, and especially the members of its publication committee, must carefully refrain from reading the *Journal A. M. A.* Or can it be that they do not care to be enlightened; that they prefer the dirty dollars they get from the advertisements? It can not be that they do not approve of the work of the Council, or endorse it, for their delegates have been active in its support. One of them, Dr. Jacobi, was on a committee which drew up resolutions endorsing the Council's work most emphatically, so recently as at the Boston meeting. Can Dr. Jacobi have changed his mind in these few months? It is not to be believed. Dr. Bryant, and you gentlemen of the publication committee, the responsibility is yours and you can not shirk it. Look through the advertising pages of the *Journal* placed in your hands by a confiding Society, read what the *Journal A. M. A.* has published in exposure of the things you are taking pay for advertising, and then say what you really think of yourselves. Why—we hate to say anything so bitter—your journal is almost as bad as the *Medical Record*!

The present number begins the fifth volume of the STATE JOURNAL. It is somewhat less bulky than the January number of a year ago, for the reason that we have not recovered from the crippling catastrophe of last April; but during the year we trust that conditions will so materially improve that the additional number of reading pages may be added. However, if we are not quite so comfortably situated as we were a year ago, we have at least as much confidence in the future and at least as much potential energy. This year and succeeding years will develop many problems of interest and importance to our profession, and will find for each one of us ample work. The broad plan of organization of the medical profession is at last shown to be distinctly successful. In all parts of the United States, medical societies are increasing their growth and their strength, and are becoming, as it were, crystallized. Instead of wandering each his own way through life, we, as physicians, are awakening to the fact that we have many important duties, and that in many directions these have been forgotten or unrecognized in the past. As our profession is brought more and more into harmony, we recognize more and more clearly the great harm that has resulted to the public through our own apathy in the past. Public health institutions of all

sorts have been permitted to become playthings of political machines. Hundreds of unscrupulous individuals have been permitted to fatten upon sickness and distress through the exploitation by our profession of worthless stuff under the guise of "proprietary" preparations; really nostrums. A few months ago it was said that only in California and in some of the Southern States did physicians rebel at the cut in insurance fees; now we find that the rebellion has spread throughout the entire country. Everywhere there is talk of reciprocity; of standardization of the laws governing medical practice; of improving, at least in some degree, our present crude methods of licensing medical practitioners. These things can be done only by medical men themselves, and then only through organized bodies of physicians, working together intelligently and understandingly. Surely, with so many interesting problems, only a few of which have been barely touched upon, one can look forward to the future with feelings of pleasurable anticipation; for 1907 brings with it no less a store of work to be done than have the previous years brought. But these undertakings are not such as may be performed by any one individual; we must all do our share. Each County Society must strive to make its organization more perfect and more solid and to bring its members into closer and more harmonious touch. As individuals we can do nothing toward the safeguarding of public health interests; as strong, active, healthy societies, we can exercise a most powerful influence. Let us see to it then, that we will endeavor to live more fully and more completely up to our duties and our responsibilities in this and succeeding years.

Truly, we are indeed a gullible and a forgetful people. We will be intensely indignant today, and tomorrow forget what it was all about. We will believe a published lie that we read today, and next week we will read another one about the same thing, but diametrically opposed; and again will we believe that. We have come to regard the most exaggerated and impossible statements of manufacturers as privileged communications whose truth should be depended upon. We have got out of the habit of asking questions—or rather we had got out of this habit until the American Medical Association organized its Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry; now we are told that the medical profession, through this Council, is asking too many impertinent questions. All this is brought to mind by a little paragraph in the "*Texas Medical Journal*" (referred to by the editor as the "red back," not the "grey back") which refers to that delectable preparation, California Fig Syrup. By this time most of us have forgotten that the trade mark formerly held by this company under the name of Fig Syrup was declared invalid by the courts, for the reason that it was neither descriptive nor true, as the preparation did not contain syrup of figs. Subsequently, we believe,